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**For Immediate Release**

## **Ottumwa Principal Receives \$25,000 Milken Award**

(Des Moines, Iowa) – November 1, 2005 – An Ottumwa principal today received a 2005 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Davis Eidahl II, the principal at Evans Middle School, learned of the honor during a surprise announcement made in person by Lt. Governor Sally Pederson and Judy Jeffrey, director of the Iowa Department of Education. The Milken Educator honor carries with it a \$25,000 financial award, to be used at the recipient's discretion.

Eidahl earned the honor in part because of his visionary leadership and ability to inspire staff and motivate students to higher levels of achievement. Eidahl has high expectations for all students and building employees. He recognizes the importance of ongoing, high quality professional development for all staff and encourages new instructional practices that are based on data. Student achievement has improved significantly during his tenure, and he has provided support systems, including math and reading enrichment and an after-school recovery program, for learners who fall behind.

Eidahl has been the Evans Middle School principal since 2004, and was previously principal at Pickwick Elementary in Ottumwa for one year. Prior to that, he was elementary principal at Davis County Schools from 1999-2003. He earned his bachelor's degree from Coe College and his master's degree from Drake University. Previous Milken winners from Ottumwa include Gail Wortmann, a science teacher from Ottumwa High School, in 2001.

A blue ribbon committee appointed by the Iowa Department of Education selects the Milken Educator recipients in a confidential process that does not include a nomination or application.

Eidahl will be presented his \$25,000 award during ceremonies at the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference in Washington DC in May 2006. A total of 100 educators nationwide will receive a 2005 Milken Educator Award. The award goes to elementary educators one year, followed by secondary educators the next.

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